



SMITH RIVER COMPLEX—SOUTH

Incident Update

Date: 9/14/23



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youtube.com/@smithrivercomplex-srf

Fire Information: 707-383-9727

Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Email: 2023.SmithRiverComplex@firenet.gov

Incident Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/casrf-smith-river-complex-

Location: Six Rivers National Forest

Size: 87,740 acres

Percent Contained: 29%

Cause: Lightning

Start Date: Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 6:01 PM

Vegetation: Timber (Litter and Understory) and Brush

Number of Personnel Assigned: 1,715

ANNOUNCEMENT: Beginning Thursday, September 14, US 199 in Del Norte County will be fully closed twice daily, Monday through Friday, from 8 AM to 11 AM and from 1 PM. to 4 PM. During all open hours, traffic will be one-way and piloted between Madrona and Oregon Mountain Road. Motorists should anticipate delays during all open hours. Caltrans provides information on current highway conditions online (roads.dot.ca.gov), by phone (800-427-7623), and on Facebook (facebook.com/CaltransD1).

CURRENT SITUATION: With noticeably drier, warmer, weather crews observed some increased fire activity on Wednesday, particularly on the southwest side of the fire near Coon Creek where fire advanced up a south-facing hill. The fire remained active into the late evening hours, and night-shift crews contained three small spot fires. Along US 199, crews finished a firing operation. The highway corridor remains a high priority and crews will continue extinguishing hotspots and reducing hazards for a few more days. On eastern side from Idylwild toward Washington Flat, crews suppressed areas of heat directly on the fireline. On the southeast side of the fire crews continued constructing a shaded fuel break. Near the fire's southwestern perimeter, crews completed a successful firing operation around Coon Creek, which they will continue to monitor and mopup lingering areas of heat. On the western perimeter near Stoney Creek, helicopters conducted water drops, which reduced the fire's intensity in an area with many stumps and large logs. On the Hurdy Gurdy Fire, crews looked for places to directly suppress the fire, mopped up hotspots, and evaluated existing line.

Crews are expecting conditions to become more favorable for their planned burning operations through the weekend. Work priorities for Thursday continue to be the US 199 corridor, Stoney Creek, and southeast side where the Fulton Hotshots will attempt to use direct suppression tactics.

WEATHER: Very hot, dry conditions are expected Thursday, with temperatures 10 degrees above normal and humidities in the teens, creating conditions for moderate fire behavior that will persist through the weekend. Winds will be mainly terrain driven, upslope and up-valley, and generally no more than 12 miles per hour. Seasonal weather conditions should return early next week. Expected temperatures are forecasted at 88 to 94 degrees today with low relative humidity ranging 17 to 25 percent.

EVACUATIONS: Information about current evacuation status can be found on the interactive evacuation map: tinyurl.com/29vv2wpm. Some Del Norte County evacuation zones remain under either a Level 2 (Get Set) or Level 1 (Get Ready) evacuation order.

AIR QUALITY: Smoke Outlooks with air quality and forecast information are available here: tinyurl.com/258mfms3.

FOREST CLOSURE: Six Rivers National Forest lands, roads, trails, and recreation sites in the vicinity of the complex are closed (Forest Order No. 10-23-06). View the Order and closure map on the Forest's website: tinyurl.com/4atens8c.